

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01848 271832Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 271747Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2656

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 1848

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT TO LATIN AMERICA

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 069136

1. I WOULD BE MISLEADING YOU IF I SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE IN ANY WAY THE LOCAL CONSEQUENCES OF A DECISION BY THE SECRETARY TO OMIT CHILE FROM HIS APRIL TRIP.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT FULLY TO CONVEY THE IMPORTANCE TO CHILE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. IN PART, THIS IS A PRODUCT OF THE CHILEAN SENSE OF BEING INTERNATIONALLY ISOLATED AND BELEAGUERED. THE BUILDUP FOR THE VISIT HAS GONE ON FOR MONTHS. THE SECRETARY HAS WRITTEN TWO PERSONAL LETTERS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. THE CHILEANS HAVE GEARED UP IN A MAJOR WAY TO RECEIVE THE SECRETARY AND ARE GOING ALL OUT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE HIS VISIT A MEMORABLE ONE. THE PITCH OF PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST IS TRULY EXTRAORDINARY. AND, AS I LEARNED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT A DINNER LAST NIGHT, THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE DEFINITELY WOULD COME TO

LATIN AMERICA, AND THE INCLUSION OF CHILE AMONG THE STATES LISTED, WAS REGARDED AS FLAT CONFIRMATION.

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3. IF CHILE IS NOW DROPPED FROM THE ITINERARY, THE RESULT WILL BE NOT ONLY BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT BUT A SENSE OF INJURY AT BEING DOWNGRADED. THE INCLUSION OF TWO OF THE ABC STATES IN THE ITINERARY WILL MAKE THIS PARTICULARLY GALLING. SIMILAR EXCLUSION OF PERU WILL SERVE ONLY AS A SLIGHT PALLIATIVE.

4. IN THEIR DISMAY, THE CHILEANS WILL AT ONCE LOOK FOR HIDDEN MEANSINGS. THE RESULTS ARE APT TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE PROMOTION OF U.S. INTERESTS HERE. THOSE ELEMENTS IN AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PINNING THEIR HOPES FOR A CHANGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ON THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL CONSIDER THEIR EFFORTS UNDERCUT. THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF WILL FEEL ABANDONED. THROUGHTOUT A YEAR AND A HALF OF VERY HARD KNOCKS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THE GOC HAS CLUNG TO OUR ASSURANCES THAT, DESPITE CONGRESS-  
IONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEMS, THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH SYMPATHIZED WITH THEIR SITUATION AND WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PERMIT. THIS FAITH HAS PERMITTED THE GOC TO ACCEPT IN MATURE FASHION EVEN THE HEAVY BLOW OF THE U.S. ARMS BAN. THE SECRETARY'S FAILURE TO VISIT CHILE WILL SHAKE THIS FAITH AND COULD AFFECT GOC ACTIONS.

5. TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY HOPES TO GET TO SANTIAGO LATER ON WILL DO VERY LITTLE GOOD. I WOULD EXPECT THE CHILEANS TO RECEIVE SUCH ASSURANCE WITH GREAT PRIVATE SKEPTICISM.

POPPER

SECRET

NNN

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